

(1)

✓ S. L. City Oct. 9, 1847.

Cousin Joseph Smith

Your letter from Plano of the 4th inst. was duly received.

You are no doubt aware that from the year 1835, until the time of his massacre I was intimately acquainted with your father, and on such terms of friendship with him as were enjoyed by but few others. In 1837, when on the journey to Missouri I was his armour bearer and stood guard at the tent in which were held his councils. I was present at the organization of the High Council at Kirtland and that of Missouri. Was ordained a member of the 5th High Council of the church which was organized at Adam-ondi-ahman.

I visited your father in Liberty jail during his incarceration, when he notified me that it was the will of God that I should be ordained one of the 12 apostles; after which I went on my mission to England which occupied about two years; starting from, "The foundation of the Lords house" in Far West, Missouri, where at the hazard of our lives a few of us re-commenced the foundation of the Temple; whence the brethren of the 12 took leave of the saints on the 28th of April 1839: I returned to Nauvoo from this mission in July 1841. At one of the first interviews, hereafter with your father.

I was greatly astonished at hearing from his lips the doctrine of Patriarchal marriage which he continued to preach to me from time to time. My last conversation with him on this subject occurred just previous to my departure from Nauvoo [May 9, 1844] in company with Elder W. Woodruff to attend conferences in Michigan; a duty assigned as by your father in carrying out his instructions to the 12 to hold conferences throughout the States, on which mission they were engaged at the time of his death, with the exception of Elders Richards & Taylor who shared his dangers and participated with him and Hyrum in the bloody scenes enacted in Carthage jail.

In his last conversation he administered a little chastisement to me for not stepping forward as he had indicated in patriarchal marriage. He assured me that the man who had many virtuous wives had many great prizes; that he admitted that the man who had one virtuous wife had one great prize. He testified to me & to my father that the Lord had given him the boys of this sealing ordinance, and that he felt as liberal to others as he did to himself. He remarked that he had given Brigham Young three wives, Heber C. Kimball two, John Taylor three, Orson Hyde two, and many a number of others and said to me "you should not be behind your privileges". He had

(3)

all along kept me posted as to many of his movements in introducing the patriarchal order of marriage.

On the 5th day of April, 1843, Louisa Beman was married to your father, Joseph Smith, for time and all eternity, by Joseph E. Tobias a high Priest of the church. She remained true and faithful to him until the day of her death. Sara Tobias is still living.

June 4th, 1843, Lucy Ann Decker was sealed to Brigham Young by your father in presence of Willard Richards.

On the 29th day of June, 1843, Brigham Young sealed Eliza W. Snow to your father, in presence of Mrs. J. M. Chasland.

Sept 20th, 1843, Melissa Pitt was married by Hyrum Smith to your father in presence of Cornelius P. Lott and Cornelia Lott.

May 1st 1843, Lucy Walker was sealed to your father by Wm Clayton in presence of Eliza W. Partridge.

May 11th 1843, Emily D. Eliza W. Partridge were married to your father, by James Adams a high Priest in presence of your father, Emma Smith.

June 13th, 1843 Abner Richards was sealed by Wm Richards to your father.

In July, 1843 Admonia Fullmer was sealed by

(4)

Brigham Young to your father in presence of H. C. Kimball.
24th July 1843, Mary Ann Frost and Elizabeth Asutherford were
sealed to F. F. Pratt by Hyrum Smith Joseph being unwell,
in presence of Mary Ann Young.

Aug. 1st, 1843, Mary B. Thompson was married for time
to Hyrum Smith by your father in presence of Mary Smith.

In Aug. 23, Hyrum Smith married to Mrs. Grover
by instruction of your father two wives, viz., Caroline Whitney
* Caroline S. Hubbard.

In November, 1843, Brigham Young sealed Fanny
Murray to your Father in presence of Mary Ann Young and
Hazel Crook.

In 1844, Hyrum Smith sealed Catherine Clawton
to Howard Egan: Egan had a wife at this time.

April 27th, 1844, Adeline B. Andrews was sealed by
Pres. Hyrum Smith to Ezra T. Benson in presence of Amelia
A. Benson, the first wife of Elder Benson.

Wm. Clayton your father's business clerk kept a daily
journal noting every evening a synopsis of the business
of the day so far as it came under his observation. On
the first day of May 1843, he made the following entries:-
A. H. at the Temple, at ten, married Joseph Smith, ^{Junr.} Lucy
Hollins.

On the 12th day of July 1843, Clayton in his journal

says: His A. M. Smith at Joseph's dictation a Revelation consisting of ten pages on the order of the Priesthood showing the lineage of Moses, Abraham, David & Solomon having many verses &c. After it was written, Presb. Joseph and Hyrum presented & read it to Emma, who said she did not believe a word of it, and appeared very rebellious.

A few of these casual items I have named may explain to you why the following declaration was made by your father on the 5th of April 1844: "You don't know me: you never know my heart. No man knows my history. I cannot tell it: I shall never undertake it. I don't blame any one for not believing my history. If I had not experienced what I have I could not have believed it myself."

The inauguration of these principles were a severe trial to your mother. At times she received and resolved to act upon the same. She gave your father four wives with her own hands; this intelligence I had from your father's mouth.

August 2nd 43, Hyrum Smith read the Revelation on Patriarchal Marriage given July 12th, of that year, to High Council then convened in his private office. Several of these Councillors are living and have given their testimony to the Church.

On the return of Lorenzo Snow from Eng.

(6)

he ascertained that his sister, Eliza, was the wife of your father: In relation to this subject Lorenzo made the following statement: In the month of April, 1840, returned from my European mission, a few days after my arrival at Nauvoo when at President Joseph Smith's house, he said he wished to have some private talk with me and requested me to walk out with him. It was toward evening, we walked a little distance and sat down on a large log that lay near the bank of the river; he then and then explained to me the doctrine of plurality of wives. He said that the Lord had revealed it unto him, and commanded him to have women sealed to him as wives, that he foresaw the trouble that would follow and sought to turn away from the commandment that an angel from heaven then appeared before him with a drawn sword threatening him with destruction, unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment. He further said, that my sister, Eliza R. Snow, had been sealed to him as his wife, for time and eternity. He told me that the Lord would open the way, &c. I should have women sealed to me as wives. This conversation was prolonged I think one hour or more in which he told me many important things.

(1)

When I (G.A.S.) returned to Nauvoo from my mission in the fall of 1845, I met Hymum at the landing, he accompanied me on the way to my home when he recited the most of the Revelation on patriarchal marriage and invited me to his house to receive further instruction. Next day, I called on your father who expressed his gratitude at the conversion of bro. Hymum and gave me additional views on the subject, and ^{the} ^{of} the results of the same in the eternal worlds.

S

Your father reasoned on these subjects in this
 wise. He said the Lord denounced in the bible
 every species of crime. He proclaimed against adultery,
 fornication and divorce, but never against plurality
 of wives, and in all places where his humble & faithful
 servants in obedience to his laws took a plurality of
 wives he blessed them for it. He punished King David
 severely for his adultery with the wife of Uriah; and
 while God by the mouth of His prophet was chastening
 him he says: "I gave thee thy masters house and thy
 masters wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of
 Israel & Judah and if that had been too little I would
 moreover have given unto thee such and such things."

When the passage in the book of Mormon concerning
 Polygamy was repeated to your father, he replied that "God
 had commanded us."

Any one who will read carefully the denials, as they are
 termed, of plurality of wives in connection with the
 circumstances will see clearly that they denounce adultery,
 fornication, brutal lusts and the taking of plurality of
 wives by those who were not commanded to do so; showing
 clearly that it was understood that such commandments
 would be given to others.

(9)

In all kindness cousin Joseph after having been many years associated with your father, and scores of times heard him testify that had he commanded him on pain of damnation to introduce this doctrine that he had to do it as the people could bear it, you must not be astonished that I cannot receive your testimony that God has shown to you that the doctrine of plurality of wives is untrue. When your father placed the authority to bear off the Kingdom on the twelve he gave them keys by which they could determine whether a revelation was from God or from some other source. Being one of the Twelve who received these Keys, testify that your testimony denying Plurality of wives is not from God.

I have given you a few incidents and facts as they existed, and in distributing your addresses I am only giving the folk who had an opportunity of hearing your fathers arguments an opportunity of comparing them with your own. The obligation which rested upon your father to establish this order of Patriarchal Marriage beyond the power of destruction seemed like a weight to crush him to the earth but knowing the redemption & exaltation of the human race depended upon it, notwithstanding the bigotry of his friends, the opposition of his own house, the

(10)

universal tradition of the christian world, & the laws of Illinois against it; he felt to rejoice that he was enabled to fulfil his mission and place beyond the power of men to destroy an institution which would redeem the female sex from degradation and exalt mankind to celestial glory and increase.

Enclosed find \$5.00 adv. on Chicago. Have the goodness to credit me for one years subscription on the Herald; the balance forward me in addresses as I have distributed all of had.

Affectionately, Your Cousin

Geo. F. Smith